

NCA  
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CHARLES MEDD

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## WASHINGTON AWAITS ANOTHER PRESIDENT

ANNCR:

JIMMY CARTER, IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK FOR HIS FIRST VISIT AS PRESIDENT-ELECT, WILL ARRIVE TO STAY IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS' TIME. AS IN THE PAST, THIS CITY IS WONDERING ABOUT THE IMPACT OF ANOTHER NEW ADMINISTRATION, AS CHARLES MEDD POINTS OUT.

VOICE:

THE ARRIVAL OF ANY NEW PRESIDENT IS A MATTER OF SOME MAGNITUDE, EVEN FOR A CITY THAT HAS SEEN SO MANY COME AND GO IN ITS RELATIVELY SHORT HISTORY. TRY AS IT WILL TO TAKE SUCH EVENTS IN STRIDE, WASHINGTON IS AGAIN FULL OF ANTICIPATION, A BIT MORE INTENSELY, IT SEEMS, THAN IN YEARS PAST. THE FACT IS MOST INCOMING PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR FIGURES, HAVING SERVED HERE IN ONE CAPACITY OR ANOTHER PRIOR TO THEIR ELECTIONS. THE LAST COMPLETE STRANGER WAS WOODROW WILSON, A ONE-TIME COLLEGE PROFESSOR WHOSE ONLY PREVIOUS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE WAS IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. BUT NEW JERSEY, THEN AS NOW, WAS ONE OF THE LARGER NORTHERN STATES FROM WHICH PRESIDENTS WERE NORMALLY CHOSEN, A PLACE CULTURALLY AKIN TO WASHINGTON AS WELL AS A GEOGRAPHIC NEIGHBOR.

THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID OF GEORGIA, JIMMY CARTER'S HOME STATE, WHICH, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE DEEP SOUTH, IS STILL REGARDED BY MANY OTHER AMERICANS AS A KIND OF CULTURAL BACKWATER. MOST OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH ARE MORE A MATTER OF STYLE THAN SUBSTANCE, BUT THE STEREOTYPES PERSIST AND, QUITE NATURALLY, THEY HAVE BECOME THE READY TARGETS OF CURRENT POLITICAL SATIRE.

SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL PROJECTIONS OF THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN DRAWN BY A WASHINGTON POLITICAL

CARTOONIST NAMED PAT OLIPHANT. ONE RECENT OLIPHANT CARTOON -- DEPICTING A WHITE HOUSE WITH OUTDOOR PLUMBING FACILITIES, CARTER FAMILY MEMBERS DRESSED IN WORK CLOTHES AND AN OFFICIAL MENU FEATURING HOME-MADE LIQUOR AND OTHER SOUTHERN FAVORITES -- HAS BEEN WIDELY AND STRONGLY CRITICIZED FOR WHAT MANY SEE AS REGIONAL BIAS AND A LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. BUT THE CARTOON, WHETHER IN GOOD TASTE OR NOT, DOES MAKE A POINT -- THAT WASHINGTON, LIKE MUCH OF THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, STILL REGARDS THE SOUTH AS SOMEWHAT ALIEN TERRITORY AND THAT JIMMY CARTER, LIKE ALL HIS PREDECESSORS, WILL NOT BE IMMUNE FROM SATIRICAL HUMOR, IN DRAWINGS OR IN PRINT.

SPECULATION, SERIOUS AND OTHERWISE, WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES OF JANUARY TWENTIETH, AN EVENT THAT OFTEN SETS THE INITIAL TONE FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION. THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE VIRGINIA ARISTOCRAT WHOSE IDEAS LEFT A PERMANENT IMPRINT ON AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, CHOSE TO WALK FROM HIS BOARDING HOUSE TO THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE. ANDREW JACKSON, THE FIRST POPULIST PRESIDENT, FILLED THE WHITE HOUSE ON HIS INAUGURAL DAY WITH HARD-DRINKING BACKWOODSMEN FROM HIS HOME STATE OF TENNESSEE. BUT IN MORE RECENT TIMES MOST NEW PRESIDENTS HAVE ARRIVED WITH POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE. JIMMY CARTER SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT THAT -- HE'S PLANNING A PEOPLE'S INAUGURAL, INVITING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY AMERICANS. AND WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL FINALLY SETTLE IN WASHINGTON -- TO BE JUDGED NOT BY HIS SOUTHERN ACCENT, HIS PREFERENCE FOR CASUAL CLOTHES, HIS BACKGROUND AS A PEANUT FARMER, BUT BY THE WAY HE GOVERNS.

MAH/RCS